



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

February 6, 2001

Adam Liptak, Esq.
The New York Times Company
Legal Department
229 West 43rd Street
New York, NY 10036

RE: MUR 5117
Solomon B. Watson IV and Catherine Henn

Dear Mr. Liptak:

On October 25, 2000, the Federal Election Commission notified your clients of a complaint alleging violations of certain sections of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act").

On November 15, 2000, the Commission found, on the basis of the information in the complaint and information provided by the respondents, that there is no reason to believe your clients violated the Act. Accordingly, the Commission closed its file in this matter on November 15, 2000. A Statement of Reasons explaining the Commission's decision is enclosed.

The confidentiality provisions at 2 U.S.C. § 437 g(a)(12) no longer apply and this matter is now public. In addition, although the complete file must be placed on the public record within 30 days, this could occur at any time following certification of the Commission's vote. If you wish to submit any factual or legal materials to appear on the public record, please do so as soon as possible. While the file may be placed on the public record before receiving your additional materials, any permissible submissions will be added to the public record upon receipt.

If you have any questions please contact Elizabeth Williams, the staff member assigned to this matter, at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely,

Lois G. Lerner
Acting General Counsel

Abigail A. Shaine

BY: Abigail A. Shaine
Acting Associate General Counsel

Enclosure
Certification of Commission Action
Statement of Reason